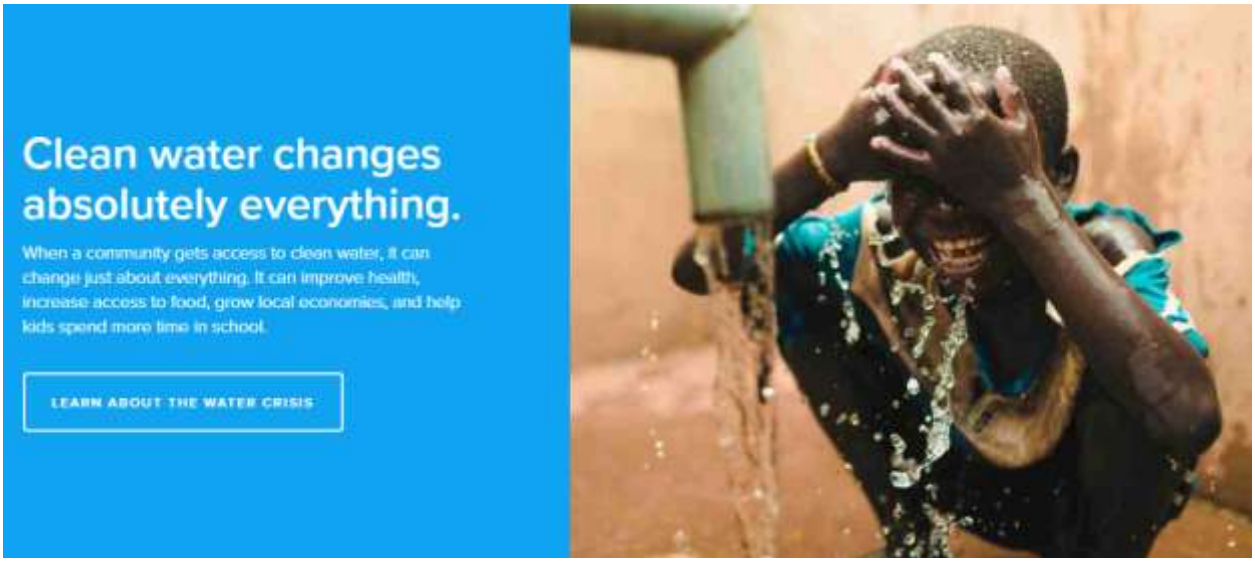
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"


Clean water changes absolutely everything.
When a community gets access to clean water, it can change just about everything. It can improve health, increase access to food, grow local economies, and help kids spend more time in school.
LEARN ABOUT THE WATER CRISIS

http://www.charitywater.org/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

November 8, 2015 10:00 am

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"God of Change and Glory"** **177 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

****Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

Announcements Donna Eyster

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

Anthem **"Shall We Gather At The River?"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Donna Eyster

One: Praise God for all the bounty we enjoy.
Give thanks for every good and perfect gift.

Many: We know God is with us here.
We trust God to supply what we need most!

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **2 Kings 17:8-16** Donna Eyster

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Mark 12:38-44** Donna Eyster

Sermon **"Whose Parity"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Go On Dreaming"** **65 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Most compassionate Life-giver,
May we honor and praise you;
May we work with you to establish
your new order of justice, peace and love.
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
That we may resist all evil.
For all the tenderness,
Strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen.
- W. Wallace, Rainbow Cathedral Church, Tacoma WA

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Carol Hall

Let our offerings be a joyous outpouring of thanksgiving to God, who deals wondrously with us. Out of gratitude, we respond to the needs of people nearby and far away who long for a crust of bread and a cup of pure water. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Donna Eyster

We have bread, so we will share. We have pure water, so we will give to dig wells for others. We have faith, so we will tell others of the great things you have done, O god. These sacred moments of giving acknowledge your ownership of all our possessions. We seek to answer your call to responsible stewardship and faithfulness in mission. We are your heralds and apostles. Thank you, God. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"** **295 NCH**

*Benediction

Carol Hall

One: Let thanksgiving continue every day you live.
Find joy in the wonder of God's generosity.

Many: We are stewards of these blessings.
We seek justice that all might benefit.
Amen and Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude

Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Nov 8th	Next Sunday: Nov 15th
Usher	Lyle Molter	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Kelsie Molter
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Glenda Horvath
Acolyte	Kelsie Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Eric Leavell / Wayne Burling	Glenda Horvath
Sunday School	Anne Marie N-T	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held November 9, 2015 at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

Citrus Fruit Sale 2014-2015: December Shipment Orders are due no later than **December 1st**.
Delivery will be December 10 – 13th
Contact Tad Wysor (734) 483-3761 or Wayne Burling (734) 377-0696 if you have any questions.

- **Navel Oranges (~20 lbs):** **$24/box ($12 for 1/2 box)**
- **Ruby Red Grapefruit (~20 lbs):** **$22/box ($11 for 1/2 box)**
- **Tangerines:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**
- **NEW! Variety Pack:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*
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Student Advocacy Center of Michigan.....Benefit Concert: **Concert 4 a Cause** is once again having an event to benefit the community -- this time for the **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan,** which has worked for 40 years to fight school dropout and push out of our most vulnerable students through advocacy, education support, academic mentoring and youth leadership opportunities.

Concert4aCause featuring:

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Bass String Quartet & Piano Shubert Trout Quintet & a Vaughan Williams Quintet

***Friday, November 20th - 8pm Northside Community Church - 929 Barton Drive, Ann* Arbor**

Celebrating the work of **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan**

Free and open to the public. Donations accepted at the door - 100% going to support the work of Student Advocacy Center.

WeROC's Public Meeting: Our church has a rare opportunity on Sunday afternoon, November 15 to make our presence known in the community -- in a very physical way -- with a nice contingent at WeROC's major Public Meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran across the river (201 N. River St). Our goal is 10 people...can we beat that?

With our spirited First Congregational section participating together with hundreds of our sisters and brothers from faith, labor, community organizations across the Washtenaw area, we magnify our ability to do God's work as a small congregation. And by helping WeROC fill the sanctuary with a broad range of people and organizations who are united around the basic shared value that "we're all in this together," we will directly contribute to achieving a rare thing in today's fragmented world…public officials and decision-makers committing in public to real changes that improve the lives of everyone in our area.

- Reducing school suspensions and breaking the school-to prison pipeline.
- Broadening the number of businesses in our area that offer employees earned sick time for themselves or to care for a family member, instead of losing a paycheck or their job.
- Expanding public transit options, locally and between Washtenaw and Detroit.
- Building on the very real public health consequences of our unacceptable level of incarceration, especially as communities of color have been affected.

Tying all of these issues together -- and the theme of the Public Meeting -- is the need, now more than ever, for all of us to work more powerfully together to dismantle the structures that preserve and expand racial and economic disparities right here in Washtenaw County. Our flyer and more at www.werocmi.org. See or contact Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com) or Marty Kleino (mgkleino@gmail.com) to sign up for our church's contingent, or to ask questions. And help us spread the word -- our numbers mean everything with this kind of action meeting.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo:

OUR MISSION
charity: water is a non-profit organization bringing clean
and safe drinking water to people in developing nations.
It's hard not to think about water today. In the western world, we face growing concerns about our stewardship of the world's most precious resource. There's talk of shortages, evidence of reservoirs and aquifers drying up, and of course, plenty of people who simply don't care.
But forget about us.
Most of us have never really been thirsty. We've never had to leave our houses and walk five miles to fetch water. We simply turn on the tap, and water comes out. Clean. Yet there are 663 million people on the planet who don't have clean water.
It's hard to imagine what 663 million people looks like really, but one in eleven might be easier. One in eleven people in our world doesn't have access to the most basic of human needs. Something we can't imagine going 12 hours without.
Here, we'd like to introduce you to a few of those 663 million. They are very real, and they need our help. They didn't choose to be born into a village where the only source of water is a polluted swamp. And we didn't choose to be born in a country where even the homeless have access to clean water and a toilet.
We invite you to put yourself in their shoes. Follow them on their daily journey. Carry 80 pounds of water in yellow fuel cans. Dig with their children in sand for water. Line up at a well and wait eight hours for a turn.
Now, make a decision to help. We're not offering grand solutions and billion dollar schemes, but instead, simple things that work. Things like freshwater wells, rainwater catchments and sand filters. For about $30 a person, we know how to help millions.

THE 100% MODEL
100% FUNDS WATER PROJECTS
A BOLD IDEA ALWAYS USE 100% OF PUBLIC DONATIONS TO FUND CLEAN WATER PROJECTS
When we started charity: water, we made a bold promise to the general public — 100% of their donations would go directly to the field to fund water projects. We'd find another way to cover our operating expenses. And we'd even reimburse credit card fees when donations were made online.
We depend on private donors, foundations and sponsors to cover everything from staff salaries to basic office systems to office rent and supplies. These donors are some of our most dedicated: their investment fuels our long-term mission, our ability to scale as an organization and our mission to continue using 100% of public donations for water projects.